NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Semi-annual Index of Information Letter

In this week's issue is printed the index of Information Letters Nos. 265-289, covering the last six months of 1928. Along with the index is a list of publications available from the Association.

Many canners have binders for their files of the Information Letter, and the index and publications list are printed as the inside eight pages of this week's issue, so that these eight pages can be easily removed and placed in the binder following the issues for December 29, 1928.

Arbitration Bill Introduced in Additional Legislatures

Note was made in last week's Information Letter of the introduction of the Draft State Arbitration Act of the American Arbitration Association in various state legislatures. This proposed uniform arbitration law has since been introduced in the state legislatures of Rhode Island, Nebraska, Ohio, Maine, Connecticut, West Virginia and Tennessee.

Recommendations for Control of Mexican Bean Beetle

The following recommendations on the control of the Mexican bean beetle have been made by the Bureau of Entomology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture:

Since 1924, when the U. S. Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin No. 1407 was issued, the Mexican bean beetle has spread over practically the whole eastern part of the United States south of New York. Over much of this area control measures are necessary and numerous compounds have been used experimentally each season in representative sections of the affected area.

Magnesium arsenate, of all the materials tested, when used either as a spray or as a dust, has given the best control, and has never seriously injured beans. This material is used as follows:

SPRAY

Magnesium arsenate ..... 1 pound
Water .....50 gallons
Apply at the rate of from 90 to 100 gallons to the acre.

DUST

Magnesium arsenate ..... 1 pound
Hydrated lime ..... 3 to 5 pounds
(Mix well together)
Apply at the rate of from 10 to 15 pounds of the mixture to the acre.

While calcium arsenate diluted with hydrated lime and used as a dust has given good control of the bean beetle, considerable plant injury has resulted from its use during the 1928 season, especially in eastern Virginia and Maryland. In order to lessen the possibility of plant injury it is recommended, for the growers who find that dusting with calcium arsenate is the most practical method of control, that the calcium arsenate-hydrated lime formula as given in Farmers' Bulletin No. 1407 be modified to include mono-hydrated copper sulphate. Calcium arsenate-copper-lime dusts are prepared by a number of commercial companies, and are available on the market. A satisfactory calcium arsenate-copper-lime dust for use on beans is a 15-15-70 mixture which contains 15 pounds of calcium arsenate, 15 pounds of mono-hydrated or dehydrated copper sulphate, and 70 pounds of lime to each 100 pounds of dust. This mixture can be used at the rate of from 14 to 16 pounds to the acre depending on the size of the beans, amount of foliage, and width of rows. A calcium arsenate-copper-lime dust prepared with 20 pounds of calcium arsenate, 20 pounds of copper sulphate, and 60 pounds of lime is also satisfactory, but lighter applications of this dust should be made, using from 10 to 12 pounds to the acre.

Even in view of the fact that experience over a period of eight years has shown that spraying gives more satisfactory control than dusting, some growers on account of local conditions and equipment on hand will be in a better position to dust. Dusting may also be preferred on small acreages ranging in size from an acre to two or three acres, since the lack of spraying equipment which is suited to economical application on such fields makes spraying difficult. Under favorable conditions, that

is, when frequent rains do not occur during the season, careful dusting will give quite satisfactory results.

Effective control of the Mexican bean beetle depends upon thorough and timely treatments. The poison should be so applied that it will reach the undersides of the leaves where the insect feeds. The first treatment should be made as soon as the beetles are noticed in the field. Later treatments should follow at weekly or ten-day intervals, the last treatment being made not later than when the first blossoms appear.

During normal seasons four applications of the magnesium-arsenate spray usually will bring about good control of the pest. If dusting is practiced frequent rains may make it necessary to apply more treatments of dusts than sprays.

CAUTION: Magnesium arsenate and calcium arsenate are poisonous to man and therefore care should be exercised in their use. It is not recommended that treatments with arsenical poisons be made after the pods have begun to form. Any beans treated while in the bearing stage should be rinsed twice in clear water before they are marketed or consumed.

If it becomes necessary to treat the crop when in the bearing stage an extract of pyrethrum may be used. Pyrethrum is a contact insecticide. This material is comparatively expensive and its utilization on commercial acreages during the entire season would be an expensive practice.

Truck Crop Markets

The market supply of southern truck crops and citrus fruit increased during the week ended February 16, according to the U. S. Market News Service, while holdings of storage crops in the North and West gradually diminished.

About 120 cars of strawberries rolled from Florida during the week, as against 17 a year ago. Shipments of carrots doubled to a total of 215 cars, mostly California stock. Forwardings of California cauliflower dropped from 450 cars during the first full week of February to 145 cars last week. Cucumber season was opening in Florida. Last year that State shipped nearly 1,500 cars of cucumbers and in 1927 about 2,300 cars.

Lettuce and tomatoes registered a general advance, and the market for northern onions was improved by reports of a freeze in southern Texas, which will delay the crop in that State. Output of oranges increased sharply to 2,540 cars, of which California furnished 1,370 and Florida most of the remainder. For the second week of February, 1928, orange shipments totaled only 1,465 cars.

Gains in the carlot movement of celery, carrots, spinach and potatoes helped to push up the week's total of 22 fruits and vegetables to 17,100 cars, or 2,200 more than a year ago.

Cabbage has been unable to hold its recent gains, partly because of the liberal supplies of new stock from the South. Only 170 cars of storage stock were shipped during the week, of which 120 came from western New York. Shipments of new stock from Florida increased to 280 cars, and Texas moved 440.

Considerable damage from recent low temperatures occurred to spinach in those parts of Texas where the crop has not been completely harvested. Shipments during the remainder of February may be curtailed. In spite of these adverse conditions, movement last week increased to 425 cars from Texas and 30 from South Carolina.

About 275 additional cars of tomatoes arrived from Mexico, 70 from Cuba, and 7 from the Bahamas. Shipments of Florida tomatoes increased to 285 cars.

Based on conditions of February 1, the estimate for Florida citrus fruit has been revised upward. About a million boxes each were added to the figures for oranges and grapefruit. Commercial shipments of oranges for all the present season are now forecast at 12,000,000 boxes and grapefruit 8,000,000 boxes. It is not believed that the California orange crop was greatly affected by the freeze of early February.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Feb. 10-16 1929	Feb. 5-9 1929	Feb. 12-18 1928	Total this season to Feb. 16	Total last season to Feb. 18	Total last season
Apples, total	1,903	1,934	1,183	113,105	82,755	93,094
Eastern states	734	817	492	56,819	40,778	44,415
Western states	1,169	1,117	691	56,286	41,977	48,679
Cabbage:						
1929 season	721	748	715	3,337	3,337	37,831
1928 season	171	289	389	37,831	37,137	39,067
Carrots:						
1929 season	185	93	108	2,454	1,496	7,189
1928 season	30	49	77	7,189	6,827	6,852
Cauliflower	149	475	270	6,440	6,993	9,046
Cucumbers:						
Domestic	6	1	4	7	10	7,260
Imports	2	4	5	44	26	37
Green peas:						
Domestic	6	12	18	472	384	4,682
Imports	110	134	140	876	659	987
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic	777	689	726	5,285	4,927	33,287
Imports	15	9	22	97	127	415
Pears	53	51	45	23,970	18,512	18,744
Peppers:						
Domestic	29	32	49	180	743	3,570
Imports	43	50	90	316	273	741
Spinach	462	321	328	4,878	4,240	10,875
Strawberries	117	110	17	428	38	18,724
String beans:						
Domestic	70	50	26	609	1,453	6,883
Imports	4	5	1	58	1	2
Tomatoes:						
Domestic	283	248	87	1,678	1,053	30,306
Imports	333	366	156	3,015	1,915	5,325

Farm Prices

The index of farm prices on January 15 at 133 was one point lower than that of December and four points lower than that of a year ago. Higher prices of corn, flax, apples, hogs, sheep and lambs were more than offset by a drop in egg prices somewhat more than usual and by a seasonal decline in butter prices.

Wholesale Prices in January

A slight upward tendency of wholesale prices from December, 1928, to January, 1929, is shown by information collected by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau's weighted index number stands at 97.2 for January compared with 96.7 for December, an increase of one-half of 1 per cent. Compared with January, 1928, with an index number of 96.3, an increase of nearly 1 per cent is shown.

Retail Food Prices in January

As compared with prices on December 15, food prices on January 15 showed a decrease of a little more than three-fourths of 1 per cent, according to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. During the month prices declined in 41 of the 51 cities from which reports were received, advanced in 8 cities, and remained stationary in 2. The 18 articles on which prices increased included canned tomatoes, with an increase of 3 per cent, and canned corn and peas, 1 per cent. No change was recorded in the average prices of canned salmon, evaporated milk, and baked beans.

Refrigeration Charges on Southern Fruit

Refrigeration charges on fruits, vegetables, berries and melons, from points in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia to destinations in Trunk Line and New England territory have been found unreasonable, after detailed investigation by the Interstate Commerce Commission of the cost of the service to which they apply. Maximum reasonable charges have been prescribed for the future. The refrigeration charges on peaches from points in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina to destinations in Official and Southern territory and to certain destinations in Western territory were found not unreasonable.

Proposes Research on Utilization of Agricultural Products

A bill (H. R. 17123) has been introduced in the House to provide for research work in connection with the utilization of

agricultural products other than forest products. The sum of $150,000 would be authorized to erect the necessary buildings and provide initial equipment therefor in cooperation with the Iowa State College at Ames, Iowa.

France to Enforce Marking Regulations More Rigorously

A report received in the Paris Office of the Department of Commerce, through fairly reliable sources, is to the effect that French customs inspectors have been instructed to increase their vigilance as regards the enforcement of the regulations requiring that the country of origin be embossed or imbedded in the French language on containers of canned fish or canned vegetables imported into France.

The impression exists that certain quantities of these products have been imported in the past without complying with the regulations, and that frequently the cases were not opened to see whether each can was properly marked. It is stated that hereafter French customs inspectors will open every case and examine every can to see that the requirements are strictly observed.

It is thought that American houses exporting these goods to France may be interested in knowing of this added watchfulness on the part of the customs inspectors.

Employment in January

Employment decreased 0.6 per cent in January, as compared with December, and pay-roll totals decreased 2.9 per cent, according to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Inventory-taking, weather conditions, and reaction from the trade activities of December, make such decreases customary in January.

Employment in manufacturing industries decreased 0.3 per cent in January and pay-roll totals decreased 3.3 per cent, as shown by returns from 12,138 establishments in 54 of the principal manufacturing industries. Practically all decreases in employment were of a seasonal character.

The level of employment in manufacturing industries in January, 1929, however, was 3.9 per cent higher than in January, 1928, and pay-roll totals were 5.5 per cent higher.

Per capita earnings in January, 1929, were 2.9 per cent lower than in December, 1928, and 1.5 per cent higher than in January, 1928.

Paperboard Industry Trade Practice Rules

Seventeen rules of business practice adopted by the paper board industry at the trade practice conference held last November in Chicago and New York under auspices of the Federal Trade Commission have now been acted upon by the Commission. Ten rules were affirmatively approved by the Commission as applying to possible law violations, while the remaining seven were accepted only as expressions of the trade.

The 10 rules affirmatively approved by the Commission include those relating to (1) interference with contracts, (2) defamation of competitors, (3) enticement of employees, (4) threats of suit for patent or trademark infringement, (5) price discrimination, (6) false branding, (7) false certification, (8) underbidding by offering inferior products, (9) sales below cost, (10) observance of resolutions.

Rules of special interest to the canning industry are those relating to price discrimination, branding, certification, and underbidding. The rule with respect to price discrimination is as follows:

Any discrimination in the price of paper board or boxes between purchasers of the same class, not including discrimination in price on account of the difference in grade, quality or quantity of the product sold, or which makes only due allowance for difference in cost of selling and transportation, or discrimination in price in the same or different communities not made in good faith to meet competition, where the effect of such discrimination may be to substantially lessen competition or tend to create a monopoly, is an unfair trade practice; *Provided*, however, that nothing in this resolution shall be construed to prevent the publication and use of a special quantity price applicable to a definite quantity of goods which are placed in one order, and, at the option of the shipper, are moved as one shipment.

The rule on false branding states:

The certification of corrugated and solid fibre boxes as complying fully with the published rules of the carriers, when in fact such is not the case, misleads the buyer, deceives the consumer, and is condemned as unfair competition.

These rules require that solid fibre and corrugated boxes used in interstate commerce must comply with certain tests and specifications as prescribed in the published schedules of the carriers. They further require that all such boxes used in interstate commerce bear the certification of the box maker reciting that the box in question complies with such rules. It is in the interest of this industry and of the consuming public that these published rules be strictly complied with.

The rule on false certification states:

The certification of corrugated and solid fibre boxes, as required by the published schedules of the carriers, by others than the box makers who

actually made the boxes, deceives the carriers and the consuming public as to the name of the actual maker of the box, and is condemned as unfair competition.

The rule on underbidding by offering inferior products follows:

The misrepresentation of paperboard or boxes in respect to size, style, calibre, bursting strength, substance or quality, is condemned as unfair competition.

Seven rules adopted at the trade practice conference were accepted by the Federal Trade Commission only as expressions of the trade. These seven rules related to (1) secret rebates, (2) sales without mutuality, (3) dumping in remote markets, (4) over-runs and under-runs, (5) free warehousing, (6) cost accounting, (7) continuation of conference.

"Industrial Explorers"

In reviewing "Industrial Explorers," published by Harper & Brothers last November, the New York Times says:

"Probably every one in America knows that some great corporations spend money for industrial research; probably every one has heard of some one important laboratory, or two, or three. But what most people do not know—and what this truly fascinating book makes plain to us—is the extent to which what may be called the 'research movement' has been developed, and the zest and freedom with which pure science itself is served in the laboratories of American industry. Something of the breadth of that development is suggested by the mere fact that there are nineteen chapters in the book, and that every one deals with a different laboratory and nearly every one with a distinct industry. From tin cans to airplanes, American industry founds itself upon science."

W. D. Bigelow, director of the Research Laboratories of the National Canners Association, is one of the nineteen scientists whose work is described in this interesting book. The Association's field laboratory and its service are featured.

The book was written by Maurice Holland, director of the Division of Engineering and Industrial Research of the National Research Council, and Henry F. Pringle of Harper & Brothers.

Car Loadings

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended February 9	933,478	328,598	248,686	376,192
Preceding week	946,892	332,339	245,630	368,923
Corresponding week, 1928	906,477	318,598	250,336	337,543
Corresponding week, 1927	962,602	327,306	252,970	382,326